“No man's life can be encompassed in one telling. There is no way to give each year its allotted weight, to include each event, each person who helped to shape a lifetime. What can be done is to be faithful in spirit to the record and try to find one's way to the heart of the man.” - Richard Attenborough's introduction to the motion picture *Gandhi*.

The HI-FI project affords World History students the opportunity to experience a detailed study of a self-selected historical figure who has had a significant impact on the history of the world. By conducting extensive research, each student will examine the life and accomplishments of their historical figure while preparing a multi-media presentation to exhibit their learning. The presentation will display the student’s expert knowledge of the life of their historical figure as well as that individual’s lasting impact on the world. Successful completion of the HI-FI project will provide students with a firm foundation in the research and presentation skills necessary to meet the challenging demands of their academic coursework in future years. Each figure selected must meet three basic criteria:

**1) He/she must have been born since 1400;**

**2) He/she must not be primarily an American figure;**

**3) He/she must have had a significant impact on the history of the world.**

Within these very broad guidelines there are thousands of people that you might select for your project; BUT, no two students in World History may use the same historical figure as the subject of their project.

**PART ONE: THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

In this part of the project, students will be asked to create an annotated bibliography of at least SIX quality sources of information about their historical figure that they have accessed and studied in the creation of their abstract and presentation. Details regarding the manner in which this bibliography must be created will be discussed in class.

**PART TWO: ABSTRACT**

Each student will be asked to write an abstract of their historical figure presentation which briefly summarizes their personal life, their single most famous accomplishment, and their lasting impact on World History.

**PART THREE: THE PRESENTATION**

Each student must create a well-organized, multi-media, inter-disciplinary presentation demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of their historical figure's life and impact on the world. This presentation, which will be 5-10 minutes in length, is the centerpiece of the HI-FI project. Each student should be prepared during their presentation to reflect the depth of their understanding of the life of their historical figure. Details about exactly how to construct the presentation and what must be included in it will be discussed in class.

PART THREE - THE PRESENTATION

A. GENERAL INFO -

1) Your presentation is to be a first class demonstration of your person's life and accomplishments. It must be a very diverse, multi-media, inter-disciplinary event in which you use different props and techniques to give the class an in-depth understanding of your historical figure's life and his impact on the history of the world.

2) The presentations will be performed in class and must be between 5-10 minutes in length. The order of the presentations will be determined by the order of the numbers drawn in the original lottery.

3) Your presentation must be smooth and well-rehearsed. YOU MAY NOT SIMPLY STAND IN FRONT OF THE ROOM AND READ FROM NOTECARDS. The idea here is to present the class with things that they can see, hear, and do that will help them gain an appreciation for your historical figure.

B. CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION - Your presentation must include information from each of the sections described below. Exactly how you choose to organize and present this information is of course up to you:

1) INTRODUCTION - Must include two things: a) an interest-catching device of some kind to catch the attention of your audience, and b) your thesis statement in which you briefly mention your person's most famous accomplishment and why they are remembered in history.

2) BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH -

a) This is a BRIEF overview of the person's life from birth to death including a mention of their career and accomplishments. The focus here is on personal information including, but not limited to, the following:

When and where was the person born?

What was their family background? What was their childhood like?

What kind of education did they receive?

What obstacles did they have to overcome?

Which people and events had the most influence on them? Did they have a family of their own?

What path did their life and career take? What did they accomplish (be brief)?

How, when and where did they die?

If the person is still alive, what are they doing now?

b) Remember, this is only a sketch of the person's life and you will not have time for a lot of detail. If you spend more than a minute or two on this it is probably too much.

c) In your effort to be brief, be sure not to leave big gaps of time in your person's life that are unaccounted for. You should give a pretty clear accounting of their entire life from birth to death, focusing primarily on personal information.

d) Exactly which information from their private life you choose to emphasize is of course up to you. It might make sense to focus on those elements of their personal life that contributed most substantially to their success and accomplishments.

3) THE "ONE BIG THING" –

a) This is an IN DEPTH presentation of the person's SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT accomplishment (a.k.a., the "ONE BIG THING"). This should NOT be a laundry list of everything the person achieved. It also should not be a general idea or concept. Instead you must discuss in detail that one specific event, accomplishment, or piece of work which you believe best represents the theme about the person's life which you have chosen to emphasize.

b) FOR EXAMPLE: If you have a painter, choose one particular painting that best exemplifies their talent and impact. If you have a musician, choose a single song that best represents what they stood for. If you have a military general, choose a particular battle; for a political leader, choose a specific law or action taken by their government; for a scientist or inventor, choose a specific discovery or invention, etc.

4) HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE –

a) You must be sure to thoroughly analyze your person's significance in history. This is the most important part of the presentation. It requires a considerable amount of thought and effort. Some questions to consider before scripting this section:

Was the person important during their time? If so, why?

What impact did they have on future generations and events?

What lasting significance do their achievements still have today?

How might the world be different if they had never lived?

Why do we still study about them today?

What lessons can we learn from their life and accomplishments?

b) This in-depth presentation of your person's legacy will reveal how well you really understand the proper place of your historical figure in world history. It will also show how much time and effort you have put into research and analyzing your subject.

5) CONCLUSION - Be sure to close your presentation with some final thoughts regarding exactly what you would like your audience to remember about your person and their life and times. A well-planned conclusion should tie together the entire presentation and leave the audience with the feeling that you are both a thoughtful and a well-organized presenter.

C. ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENTATION -

1) "PROPS" – You must incorporate AT LEAST TWO audio and/or visual "props" into the body of your presentation. A “prop” is an item (e.g., a painting, a song, a poem, a film clip, a skit, etc.) that comes from an outside discipline (e.g., art, music, literature, film, drama, etc.) and presented in such a way as to help the class get a deeper understanding of your person's life and accomplishments. When incorporated into the presentation, all props need to be fully explained and analyzed. For example, consider discussing the following:

What is the prop?

From what field of study (e.g., art, literature, music, etc.) does it come?

Where did you access it?

Why did you choose to include it in your presentation?

What does the prop reveal about the life of your person?

2) MEDIA TECHNOLOGY - During the course of your presentation you must use in a skillful manner AT LEAST TWO different sources of media technology (e.g. a video, movie clip, YouTube, music, DVD/CD player, overhead projector, PowerPoint slide show, Prezi, etc.). You will obviously find that most, if not all, of your "props" will have the most impact if presented with the help of media technology.

3) ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ABSTRACT - When you are finished with your presentation you will field any questions that the audience may want to ask about your historical figure. You will then give to your teacher on this day the finished versions of your Abstract and Annotated Bibliography.

4) ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS TO PREPARE AND DELIVER AN ACCEPTABLE PRESENTATION ON THEIR ASSIGNED DAY WILL FAIL THE PROJECT.

REMEMBER: As we stated at the beginning, our goal as teachers is to encourage you to do the best academic work of your school career on this project. Extend yourself. Put in the extra time and effort necessary to make your presentation special. Impress your peers with the quality of your work. There is no greater feeling than to earn the respect of your classmates for doing top notch academic work. If you need help in any way, be sure to ask. GOOD LUCK & HAVE FUN!!!

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY and ABSTRACT

I. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY –

A. Students must thoroughly research their historical figure to gather enough specific and detailed information to perform a thoughtful presentation. This means accessing information on the subject from a variety of sources.

B. Proof of research must be provided in the form of an annotated bibliography which is typed, single-spaced and includes for each source of information the following:

1) a source listing constructed in MLA format.

2) a well-written 1-2 paragraph summary describing first, what kind of information was included in the source; and, second, in which specific parts of your project this information was included.

C. The annotated bibliography must include no less than SIX sources of information.

II. ABSTRACT

A. The Abstract must be typed, single-spaced on one side of a single piece of paper (12-pt. font, one-inch margins). This will be approximately 500 words.

B. To save space, type only your name (fist and last) in the upper left-hand corner. A title should be centered at the top of the page in the following format:

Abstract: Rick Steves

C. The Abstract must be organized into four paragraphs, one representing each of the four main parts of your presentation (Introduction, Biographical Sketch, "One Big Thing", and Historical Significance). EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON PARTS THREE AND FOUR.

D. For each of your four paragraphs, try to avoid trivial details and focus on the most important information from each section.